

Policy on Missing Persons/Students

In 2003, President George W. Bush signed into Public Law 108-21, Title II, Section 204, which is more commonly known as “Suzanne’s Law.” This law amends Section 3701(a) of the Crime Control Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5779(a)). This means that there is no waiting period before a law enforcement agency initiates an investigation of a missing person under the age of 21 and reports the missing person to the National Crime Information Center of the Department of Justice, as part of the national [“Amber Alert” bill](#).

If a member of the MCLA community has reason to believe that a student who resides in on-campus housing is missing, they should immediately notify MCLA Campus Police at 413-662-5100. Campus Police will generate a missing person report and initiate an investigation.

After investigating the missing person report, should Campus Police determine that the student is missing and has been missing for more than 24 hours; Campus Police will immediately notify the North Adams Police Department, Massachusetts State Police and the student’s emergency contact. If the student is under the age of 18 and not emancipated, the Campus Police will notify the student’s parent or legal guardian.

Each student has the option to register a confidential contact person to be notified in the case that student is determined to be missing. Only authorized campus personnel and law enforcement officials, in furtherance of a missing person investigation, may have access to this contact person. In the event a student does not designate such a confidential contact person, law enforcement will still be notified and fully investigate all reports of missing people. The parents or guardians of students who are under the age of 18 and not emancipated must and will be contacted within the 24-hour time-frame.

MCLA reserves the right to contact family under emergency exceptions to FERPA law, when circumstances deem it appropriate to do so